

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 1992

TO: Paul Bryan  
Program Director

THRU:

FROM: Harry E. Atkinson, Chief HEA  
Site Investigation Section dy DDBV

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



325793

SUBJECT: 5th Street Dump  
Mishawaka, Indiana

The site, 5th Street Dump, is located in the City of Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, Indiana. It is an area of about 17.5 acres that was originally a quarry used for mining sand and gravel deposits. Disposal of wastes is alleged to have begun during the 1940's. Aerial photos from 1951 indicate that several ponds on-site appear to have been filled in. The wastes disposed of on-site were allegedly deposited into the surface water and backfilled.

Responsibility for the dumping operation appears to have been split between the City of Mishawaka and Uniroyal Plastics Company, Inc. Internal Uniroyal Memoranda from the late 1940's and early 1950's indicate that the respective parties operated on two (2) separate areas of the site.

In 1955 the site was sold to the present owner, Dearborn Fabricating Company, while the City of Mishawaka retained its lease on the property and continued leasing through the time of the State investigation, in 1989.

IDEM completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) on the site on November 6, 1987. IDEM first became aware of a potentially serious problem at the site when buried drums were discovered on-site in March of 1988. Two (2) drums were inadvertently ruptured by a backhoe, releasing a vaporous cloud which reportedly caused throat and nasal burns in the backhoe operator.

A screening Site Inspection (SSI) was recommended and completed on August 31, 1990. On-site samples were collected during the SSI. Chemical analysis of the samples revealed no significant concentrations of semi-volatile organic compounds, heavy metals or pesticides. Low concentrations of a number of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in subsurface soil samples. The compounds detected were 1,2-dichloropropane, trichlorethylene and methyl ethyl ketone. None of the VOCs detected in subsurface soils appeared to be cause for concern. 1, 2-Dichloropropane was detected at low concentration at the bottom of the drum pit in exposed groundwater. The concentrations while relatively low, may become a concern should similar contaminant concentration migrate to municipal or residential wells.

While no vinyl chloride was detected at the site, the findings do not preclude the site as a potential source of the vinyl chloride detected in the municipal well. The state believes that this site is still a potential threat to both humans and the environment. Preliminary calculations have determined that the site should be investigated further under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)/Superfund Programs.

Note: The 5th Street Dump is located near another site, Wheelabrator-Frye Inc., that the IDEM, Office of Environmental Response, Site Investigation Section will be investigating. The Wheelabrator-Frye Inc., (EPA ID number IND 078904679) is located at 400 South Byrkit.